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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON

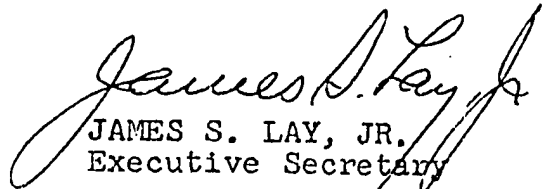
June 14, 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: U. S. Policy Toward the Federal Republic of  
Germany, U. S. Policy Toward Berlin, and U. S.  
Policy Toward East Germany

REFERENCES: A. NSC 160/1  
B. NSC 5404/1  
C. NSC 174  
D. Progress Report, dated January 7, 1955,  
by the OCB on NSC 5404/1  
E. NSC Actions Nos. 1303 and 1530-b  
F. Memos for NSC from Executive Secretary,  
same subject, dated May 29 and June 12,  
1956

At the request of the Secretary of Defense, the enclosed views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the recommendations of the NSC Planning Board transmitted by the reference memorandum of June 12, in which views the Secretary concurs, are transmitted herewith for the information of the National Security Council in connection with its action on the subject at its meeting on Friday, June 15, 1956.

  
JAMES S. LAY, JR.  
Executive Secretary

cc: The Secretary of the Treasury  
The Special Assistant to the  
President for Disarmament  
The Director, Bureau of the Budget  
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
The Director of Central Intelligence

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C O P Y

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

14 June 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: U. S. Policy Toward the Federal Republic of Germany,  
U. S. Policy Toward Berlin and U. S. Policy Toward  
East Germany

Forwarded herewith for the information of the members of the National Security Council are the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the above subject, in which I concur.

SIGNED

C. E. WILSON



Declassified/Released on 6-11-86 (F86-703)  
under provisions of E.O. 12356  
by N. Menan, National Security Council

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
Washington 25, D. C.

C O P Y

13 June 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: U. S. Policy Toward the Federal Republic  
of Germany, U. S. Policy Toward Berlin and  
U. S. Policy Toward East Germany

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff submit herewith their comments and recommendations with respect to a memorandum by the Executive Secretary, NSC, dated 12 June 1956, subject as above, in which the NSC Planning Board recommends adoption by the Council of the following draft action:

"Re-affirmed the great interest of the U. S. in obtaining an adequate German defense contribution, but agreed that, in the light of the developing political situation in Germany, the U. S. should not press for a German defense build-up in such a manner as would jeopardize the continuation of a moderate pro-Western West German Government."

2. Current United States policy with respect to Germany, formulated in August 1953 (NSC 160/1), includes five basic objectives and ten courses of action. One of the major objectives has consistently been ".....to enable Germany to participate in the defense of the West and make the greatest possible contribution to the strength of the Free World." Accomplishment of this objective has been long delayed, during which period increasing difficulty has been experienced in obtaining and maintaining national commitments to the military strength of NATO. A further delay in the build-up of German military forces could aggravate this situation. General Gruenther stated on 28th of May this year that he could not give assurance the NATO area could now be defended but when the German contribution is effective "I can tell you that we shall be able to give reasonable assurance in the positive." During the past eleven years, in the interest of the defense of the NATO area the United States has assisted in a major way toward the establishment of a politically and economically stable German state and has stockpiled large quantities of equipment, now available for transfer, to expedite its military build-up.

3. While the wording of the draft statement of action, recommended by the NSC Planning Board, appears on first reading to be innocuous, the Joint Chiefs of Staff are disturbed at its possible connotation. There would seem to be no need for the National Security Council to "Re-affirm the great interest of the U. S. in obtaining an adequate German defense contribution ....." so long as the objectives and courses of action set forth in NSC 160/1 represent current U. S. policy. While they recognize it may be necessary to

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modify the degree and timing of emphasis on the attainment by the Germans of an early and adequate defense build-up, the Joint Chiefs of Staff feel it would be inadvisable to make this a statement of national policy, inasmuch as they consider the objectives set forth in NSC 160/1 are still valid.

4. The Joint Chiefs of Staff offer no objection to noting the concurrence of the Planning Board in the views of the Operations Coordinating Board, contained in the Progress Reports referenced in the memorandum by the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

5. The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that the substance of paragraphs 3 and 4 above form the basis for the Department of Defense position with respect to this item, scheduled for consideration by the National Security Council on 14 June 1956.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

SIGNED

ARTHUR W. RADFORD,  
Chairman,  
Joint Chiefs of Staff.



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